

Application No.: 10/083,092

Case No.: 56471US010

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 5-7, 12-18, 24, 29, and 30 are pending. Claims 6, 8-11, 19-23, and 25-28 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 12, and 24 are amended.

**§ 112 Rejections**

Claims 1, 5-18, 24, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicants have deleted the limitation that the thermoset layer contains only thermoset adhesive resins. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be withdrawn.

**§ 102 Rejections**

Claims 1, 6, 13, 24, and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kitahara et al. (US 6,372,870 B1). The Patent Office asserts in part that Kitahara et al. disclose an article comprising a backing comprising a fluorinated polymer that is not perfluorinated, and a curable thermoset adhesive layer that is non-tacky after cure and contains only thermoset adhesive resins.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 24 so to require that the backing comprises a terpolymer of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride. For at least this reason, Kitahara et al. do not anticipate the invention as now claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

**§ 103 Rejections**

Claims 5-7, 10, 11, and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. in view of Rinde et al. (US 5,470,622). The Patent Office asserts in part that: Kitahara et al. disclose an article comprising a backing comprising a fluorinated polymer that is not perfluorinated, and a curable thermoset adhesive layer that is non-tacky after cure and contains only thermoset adhesive resins, specifically epoxy resins or glycidyl ether or urethane resins; and Rinde et al. disclose a backing comprising a fluorinated polymer that is not perfluorinated, a thermoset

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adhesive on at least one unetched surface of the backing layer, a curable composition at room temperature, and curing agents selected from the group instantly claimed.

Applicants have amended claim 1 so to require that the backing comprises a terpolymer of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride and the adhesive comprises (chloromethyl)oxirane, 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bisphenol copolymer. Neither Kitahara et al. nor Rinde et al. alone or in combination appear to disclose or suggest the invention as now claimed in claim 1. Thus, neither of the references alone or in combination can disclose or suggest the inventions claimed in claims dependent from claim 1. For at least this reason, the above combination of references as suggested by the Patent Office does not render the invention in the above claims obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 5, 7, 10, 11, and 29 be withdrawn.

Claims 8, 9, and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. in view of Hoyle et al. (WO 99/64235). The Patent Office asserts in part that: Kitahara et al. disclose an article comprising a backing comprising a fluorinated polymer that is not perfluorinated, and a curable thermoset adhesive layer that is non-tacky after cure and contains only thermoset adhesive resins, specifically epoxy resins or glycidyl ether or urethane resins; and Hoyle et al. disclose a protective article comprising a backing comprising a fluorinated polymer that is not perfluorinated, a curable adhesive layer on one surface thereof, and the instantly claimed substrates.

Applicants have amended claim 1 so to require that the backing comprises a terpolymer of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride and the adhesive comprises (chloromethyl)oxirane, 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bisphenol copolymer. Neither Kitahara et al. nor Hoyle et al. alone or in combination appear to disclose or suggest the invention as now claimed in claim 1. Thus, neither of the references alone or in combination can disclose or suggest the inventions claimed in claims dependent from claim 1. For at least this reason, the above combination of references as suggested by the Patent Office does not render the invention in the above claims obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 8, 9, and 13-18 be withdrawn.

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Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. in view of Rinde et al. in further view of Neumann et al. (US 5,889,125). The Patent Office asserts in part that: Kitahara et al. disclose an article comprising a backing comprising a fluorinated polymer that is not perfluorinated, and a curable thermoset adhesive layer that is non-tacky after cure and contains only thermoset adhesive resins, specifically epoxy resins or glycidyl ether or urethane resins; Rinde et al. disclose a backing comprising a fluorinated polymer that is not perfluorinated, a thermoset adhesive on at least one unetched surface of the backing layer, a curable composition at room temperature, and curing agents selected from the group instantly claimed; and that Neumann et al. disclose a composition comprising a modified Bisphenol A epoxy resin and a curing agent, specifically, 4,7,10-trioxatridecane-1,13-diamine.

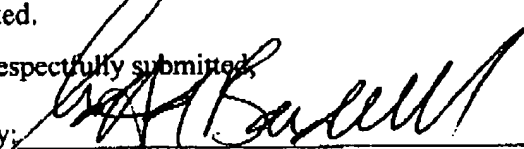
As stated above, Applicants have amended claim 1 so to require that the backing comprises a terpolymer of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride and the adhesive comprises (chloromethyl)oxirane, 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bisphenol copolymer. None of Kitahara et al., Rinde et al. or alone or in combination appear to disclose or suggest the invention as now claimed in claim 1. Thus, neither of the references alone or in combination can disclose or suggest the inventions claimed in claims dependent from claim 1. For at least this reason, the above combination of references as suggested by the Patent Office does not render the invention in the above claims obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claim 12 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

November 22, 2005  
Date

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
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Customer Number

Patent  
Case No.: 56471US010**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

First Named Inventor: CLEMENS, TIMOTHY J.

Application No.: 10/083,092

Group Art Unit: 1712

Filed: February 26, 2002

Examiner: Keehan, Christopher M.

Title: PROTECTIVE ARTICLES

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**  
**AND**  
**TWO-MONTH PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR § 1.8(a)]</b>	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 571-273-8300.
<b>NOV 27 2005</b>	<i>Kathleen M. Murray</i>
Date	Signed by: Kathleen M. Murray

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the outstanding Office Action, dated July 8, 2005, in the above-identified application.

Under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136(a), Applicants petition to extend the period for filing a reply in the above-identified application. The requested extension and appropriate fee are as follows:

☒ **37 CFR § 1.17(a)(2) - Extension within second month**

Please charge any fees due, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

One copy of this sheet marked duplicate is also enclosed.

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